USF Will Unite Against Violence During Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® Event

Men to wear high heels, Rays pitcher to participate in Oct. 15 program recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month

TAMPA, Fla. (Oct. 13, 2015) – Inspired by the idea that you cannot truly understand the experiences of others until you have walked a mile in their shoes, University of South Florida students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community will proclaim their commitment to end violence against women during an event on Thursday, Oct. 15. Men will slip on high heels and participate in USF’s annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®. Coordinated by the student organization N.I.T.E. (Network, Improve, Transform, Empower) and in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the event will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Marshall Student Center Amphitheater.

In addition to the march, multiple inspirational speakers will be present to show their support. The keynote speaker, Zuleika “Zuly” Gonzalez, is an accomplished artist, advocate and survivor of domestic abuse. She offers art advocacy workshops to survivors of trauma and has impacted countless lives by sharing her story. Melissa Dohme, a domestic violence survivor and advocate who was proposed to at a Tampa Bay Rays game, will introduce one of the team’s top relief pitchers, Jake McGee. McGee will lead participants in the R.E.A.L. (Relationship Equality and Anti-violence League) Promise and encourage men to help end violence against women. This promise is a commitment to stand up against gender based violence and the culture that supports it.

Everyone from the campus and surrounding community is invited to participate in this march to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence. A limited number of heels will be loaned to men on a first come, first served basis. Due to the large number of attendees, men and women are encouraged, if possible, to bring their own heels to use during the event. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® is an educational, empowering, and unique event sponsored by N.I.T.E. in partnership with the USF Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention, and with support from USF Athletics and the Tampa Bay Rays.

For reasonable accommodations and/or additional information, please contact Val Touloute at 813-974-5756 or vtouloute@usf.edu.

About N.I.T.E
The purpose and goal of N.I.T.E. is to advocate for campus safety and student wellness. The organization educates students at USF about resources provided to them by the school. In addition, N.I.T.E. works with other campus organizations, offices and departments to create a unified campus community and bring about social change through awareness-raising events.

About USF
The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is a Top 50 research university among both public and private institutions nationwide in total research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving nearly 48,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of $1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of $4.4 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.

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